

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

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R 091728Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3556

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 10742

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, UK, EG

SUBJ: VISIT OF EGYPTIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

1. EGYPTIAN DEFENSE MINISTER GAMASSY VISITED UK FOR ONE WEEK ENDING JULY 5. ACCORDING TO FCO NEAR EAST DEPARTMENT, DESPITE USUAL IMAGINATIVE BRITISH PRESS SPECULATION GAMASSY DID NOT CONCLUDE ANY MAJOR ARMS PURCHASE CONTRACT WITH BRITISH SINCE EGYPT HAS NO FUNDS. GAMASSY SAW UK MINDEF MASON AND FCO MINISTER OF STATE HATTERSLEY' BUT, SAYS FCO, CONVERSATIONS CONSISTED OF GENERALITIES. GAMASSY SPENT ONE DAY EACH WITH RAF, NAVY AND ARMY; LATTER VISIT WAS AN "OLD BOY" DAY SINCE IT APPEARS GAMASSY SERVED WITH BRITISH ARMY IN WORLD WAR II. IN SUM, SAYS FCO, IT WAS A GOOD WILL VISIT FOLLOWING UP ON SADAT'S.

2. ACCORDING TO INTERVIEW WITH GAMASSY PUBLISHED IN JULY 5 TIMES, HIS VISIT HAD TWO PURPOSES: BUY MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND COOPERATE WITH UK IN PRODUCING MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN EGYPT. HE STATED THAT DECISIONS ON CREATION OF AN EGYPTIAN ARMS INDUSTRY WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH PARTICIPATION WILL BE TAKEN IN AUGUST AT MEETING OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF SAUDI ARABIA, UAE, AND EGYPT. TEXT POUCHED TO CAIRO AND NEA/EGY.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO FURTHER HARD INFO ON THE VISIT AT PRESENT. EMBASSY CAIRO MAY WISH ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP MORE
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INFO ON BASIS OF GAMASSY'S STATEMENTS QUOTED IN PARA 2.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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